

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-30 are currently pending in the application. No claims have been amended or canceled. The remarks are presented in response to a telephonic interview held with the Examiner on October 17, 2005. In the interview, the Examiner indicated that currently pending claims contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-4, 7, and 12-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by CH 665109 to Rhyner ("Rhyner").

Independent claims 1, 26 and 28 recite a sloping trough slide defined in a cutting surface. Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Rhyner. Rhyner discloses a rectangular chopping-board consisting of a work-surface B. Along two opposite-facing sides of the chopping-board is a duct 4. Each duct 4 is larger in cross-section near a lower end where a connecting duct 5 joins the lower end of the two ducts. An outlet 8 runs from a hole 6 in the connecting duct 5, extends outwards, and has a protruding socket 7.

The Office Action appears to equate the protruding socket 7 of Rhyner as a sloping trough slide defined in a cutting surface as claimed. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant respectfully submits that the protruding socket 7 of Rhyner is a juice channel for discharging juices which leak from the articles that are cut on the chopping-board. This juice channel discharge at socket 7 extends solely from duct 5. The sloping trough slide as claimed, on the other hand, provides an outlet through which chopped articles can easily be guided into a sink or any other suitable location from the cutting surface of the baseboard. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the sloping trough slide as claimed is defined in the cutting surface. In contrast to claims 1, 26, and 28, the protruding socket 7 of Rhyner is defined with respect to the juice duct 5 and not in the cutting surface of the baseboard as claimed. This is shown in the attached drawing (Exhibit A), which was shared with the Examiner during the interview, where the cross-sections 1-5 illustrate how the curved surface in Rhyner is defined solely in the outlet 8 and terminates at a point in the juice channel duct 5 as opposed to terminating at an interior point and being defined in the cutting surface as claimed. Applicant respectfully submits that

independent claims 1, 26, and 28 distinguish over Rhyner. It is noted for the record that the Examiner agreed in the telephonic interview that the claimed feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 26, and 28 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 2-4,7, and 12-25 depend from and further restrict independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. Dependent claim 27 depends from and further restricts independent claim 26 in a patentable sense. Dependent claims 29-30 depend from and further restrict independent claim 28 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claims 1, 26, and 28, respectively, dependent claims 2-4,7, 12-25, 27, and 29-30 distinguish over Rhyner and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 2-4,7, 12-25, 27, and 29-30 is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-6 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhyner in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,527,022 to Gibson ("Gibson").

Dependent claims 5-6 and 8-11 depend from and further restrict independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, dependent claims 5-6 and 8-11 distinguish over Rhyner and Gibson and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 5-6 and 8-11 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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